

COMMUNITY CALL

Edition No. 33

www.ashleygreen.org.uk

Summer 2021

FROM THE CHAIR

As we slowly come out from the pandemic, I sincerely hope we can look forward positively with confidence. Our Covid support team, formed from the Community Association and St John's Church, is still active and available, and we have been fortunate that overall that we have not received many calls for help, and none for a long time. We are so grateful to all who helped when there was a call during this time

As expected, all activities and events were cancelled this year until the Summer Fair, which was permitted under the Government relaxation of restrictions. We were stunned by the turnout for the Fair, presumably people took the opportunity to get out after 18 months. (*see center pages*) We also hosted 3 Euro games in the Memorial Hall, which were a great success, despite the Final result and bodes well for other activities.

Looking forward and assuming normality returns moving forward I am delighted to inform you that we have a booking for the renowned Budapest Café Orchestra to play at the Memorial Hall on Saturday 20th November 2021. Led by jazz violin superstar Christian Garrick the Budapest Café Orchestra play traditional folk and gypsy music from across the Balkans and Russia and they play throughout the country. I am hopeful that this will be our first event at which the village can come together as a group post the lockdown. We are also planning to run our annual bonfire and fireworks night on 5th November. I do hope we are able to run more events throughout the year.

The biggest activity in the village is the building of the Children's Adventure Playground, Wellbeing Facility, Coffee Shop and Terrace. It is lovely to see the whole village engaged with the project, so many generous donations and messages of support. Many villagers have been volunteering in their droves on Saturdays and during the week to undertake unskilled work, clearing vegetation, moving materials etc to save on costs. Villagers with specific skillsets have offered their time free of charge to support the project.

We are rebuilding our buildings lettings business, which is important to the Community Association as it generates funds for the benefit of the village and upkeep of the buildings. The new playground and coffee shop will be attractive to Hall hirers, and children's parties, which can only benefit the village.

The threat to the Association of a high rent for the Old School has potentially surfaced again as the Chiltern District Council applied to the Land Registry for ownership, as part of their 'tidying up' process before the unity council was formed. The Land Registry were unable to decide, but we have been recently informed that this has now gone to a Land Registry Tribunal, and we await the outcome. Either way we will need to work with Bucks Council to ensure the buildings are kept in a good state of repair for the benefit of the Community.

Several issues still concern the village, namely the threat of unsustainable large housing developments in the area, inappropriate planning applications and the damage to our country lane verges by increasing traffic.

We continue to work with the Council and the Parish Council to monitor developments and make our views known to decision-makers. These include the proposal to build 33 Affordable Houses in the field behind the Eagle.

The Council has robustly rejected such applications and we await to hear whether the applicant will appeal that decision.

The threat to build a house in the Golden Eagle's car park has gone away, but it is of great concern that this could resurface at any time.

I am delighted to inform you the Old School has had Wi-Fi installed last Friday and hopefully the Memorial Hall will have it installed soon.

We welcome Nick Southworth as our newly appointed Council representative who has become immediately involved in several of our activities. It is reassuring to have a direct link to the Council. Mark Shaw, our previous Council representative had to stand down to health reasons and I thank him for his support.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributes to make village life so enjoyable and in particular members of the committee, without whom nothing would happen.

No one knows what tomorrow will bring, but I wish you all good health and please stay safe.

Rob Youngs (Chairman)

COMING EVENTS

We are back in business and have already fixed the following events:-



Watch for details



NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S

My goodness what a lot of changes we have had at St John's this year. We were very thankful that we were able to reopen our church to celebrate the Easter Season with blended services, online and in person.

Our Focal Minister, Revd. Chris Gercke left St John's at the end of June when his contract as curate to St Mary's Church in Chesham came to an end. We were blessed to have Chris for the 3½ years that he was with us in Ashley Green. I know that many of you knew him and worked with him in St John's and the village.



We wished Chris and his family well with a cream tea farewell party in our churchyard in Hog Lane and a special cake at our lunch and chat group in June.



He came back to the village fair in July and this picture seems to show he was enjoying it. We will miss his smiles

With the Chris leaving, the clergy in Chesham was severely depleted, and without enough ministers to cover the Sunday morning services we have moved our service time to 4pm for the moment.

We are fortunate that we do have the Team Rector of the Parish of Great Chesham, Revd. Canon Edward Bowes-Smith, and the minister at St John's. Bellingdon, Revd. Tim Yates together with our parish lay ministers who are coming up to St John's each Sunday afternoon to take our services.

We are looking at long term plans for ministry at St John's and are just one of the 10,000 rural churches in the Church of England struggling with a diminishing congregation.

We know that St John's is valued by our local community, and we feel that we contribute to that community, but we need to build on that social capital to expand our mission, maintain our church building and to remain relevant as we approach our 150th Anniversary in 2023.

GOOD NEIGHBOURS GROUP VILLAGE 'LUNCH AND CHAT'

We are so happy that we have started meeting for lunch and a chat in person! During Lockdown we met via Zoom, but that certainly was not the same as meeting together - but now we can!!

We are taking it slowly with just two volunteers, Jacque and Teresa, cooking lunch just once a month with all of our tables nicely socially distanced from each other, and the cooks wear masks to prepare the food and serve our guests.

In July we held a special party with individual, named cupcakes, complete with a mini sparkler to celebrate all those lockdown birthdays!

Not all of our guests are ready to re-join us just yet but as we take our regular August break, we hope that they, and any new friends, might feel ready when we come back in September every week.

We are very grateful to have four new volunteers offer to come and join our rota which will raise our teams by 50% to six.

Huge thanks to those eight ladies who have been cooking and serving meals for several years and we look forward to seeing you all back in September. Watch out for details

RAISING FUNDS FOR TASC

ED Higby - son of our lettings officer - is raising funds for **TASC**. He works for the Ambulance Service in the control centre in Chesham and is going to help raise funds for TASC by taking a ride on the world's fastest ZIPWIRE!

At the end of August it is planned that he will be travelling 1.5km at a breath-taking 100 mph on Zip World's Velocity 2 zipline at Penrhyn Slate Quarry in North Wales. He says:- *"I have a passion for supporting charities and have done a number of fundraisers. After an incredibly tough year I wanted to help raise money to support my ambulance colleagues and the guys who look after us every day. When I first signed up, I was around 21 stone and I needed to be around 19 stone to take part. Shedding the pounds has been another personal goal of mine and I've done everything to reach my target."*

Here are some pictures of Ed and some of the team and a pin badge he designed to raise awareness of TASC.



He is currently training to become a "first responder" - a person with specialised training who is among the first to arrive and provide assistance at the scene of an emergency, such as an accident, natural disaster, or terrorism.



About The Ambulance Staff Charity (TASC)

TASC is a National Charity dedicated to caring for those who care for us. They provide, current and former ambulance staff, their close family members, and UK service volunteers with access to mental health support, physical rehabilitation and financial guidance services when they are in need.

Ed set out to raise £1,000 for TASC and is already over half way there.

Should you wish to make a donation visit:-
www.theasc.org.uk/fundraising

PLAYGROUND AND GLEBE CAFE UPDATE AUGUST 2021

We continue to be overwhelmed by the generosity of supporters of the Playground Project.

We were thrilled to hit our £70,000 fundraising target at the beginning of July but increasing costs of materials continues to put pressure on the budget, so we are continuing with our fundraising efforts.



We are delighted to have just been informed that we have been awarded with a £1,000 grant from the **Arnold Clark Community Fund**

We have also been successful with our application to the **Heart of Bucks**, who have given us a £5,000 grant towards the Toddler Hill.



Here are a few pictures to show the site as work began,



Right at the beginning



The digger moves in



Removing the old playground kit



Some of the team!

Construction of **The Glebe Cafe** is progressing, and the scheduled opening date is Saturday 2nd October, all being well.

They will be selling hot and cold drinks, cakes, pastries, panini's, sausage and bacon baps, kids lunch boxes and weekly specials.....building the menu once settled.

The plan is to also sell local eggs and other fresh produce.

Terri - who will be running the Glebe Café undertook an online survey, asking the public what they wanted out of the café, and the general consensus was decent quality coffee and healthy snacks including vegan options.

There was also a request for longer opening times towards the end of the week and over weekends.

Construction of the terrace is well underway and due to be completed by mid September.

Equipment for the playground continues to be fitted and the final element of the surface resin for the play area is scheduled for late September.

Here is a selection of pictures showing how things are moving along as at time of writing this Newsletter.



The Train



The Glebe Cafe

Once the area is inspected and signed off by the authorities, an official opening date will be circulated!

Thanks again to all villagers for your continued support for this exciting new village asset.

VILLAGE FAIR 2021.

Following the effective end of lockdown restrictions we were allowed to go ahead, with the Annual Village Fair on Saturday July 3rd after what seemed to be a lifetime.

It is probably fair to say that this years village fair was the best attended and one of the most successful we have ever held. We have never seen so many in attendance. The weather was kind to us and they just kept coming.

Our fair was one of the very few to actually be put on and flourish in this region in 2021. Luckily a number of school prize giving days were also cancelled at short notice which increased our numbers and boosted our helpers on the day.

We try hard to put on a traditional village fair supporting as many local groups and charities as possible.

In the morning the team turned out to erect the stalls and the covering pergolas and the sun began to shine. It was going to be a good day.



The kiddies roundabout trundled up, the Beer Stall and the Pimms stall were prepared and the ladies from the WI got their teas and cakes ready.

Then the action dog team set up the obstacle course for their pets, followed by the erection of the coconut shy, the goal posts for the penalty shoot out - and the putting green was mowed in preparation.



Down at the lower end of the green things were getting a bit crowded as more and more classic cars drove up for the classic car show. What a display!!



They brought with them two of their ponies and two delightful goat kids - Feta and Halloumi - taking centre stage.

For the first time our new friends from Bank Farm RDA (Riding For Disabled) Riding for the Disabled based at Flamsted Farm attended.



Then it was time to start and the crowds piled in.



During the day the queues at the various refreshment stall were never ending. The beer stall kept running out of beer and had to be restocked several times - the same with the Pimms!

Denis and Eunice (Previous landlords at the Golden Eagle) brought their Burger van and the WI stall did a roaring trade too, dispensing tea and some lovely cake to accompany that.

St John's Tombola bottle stall had around 200 bottles and ran out of stock at about 4.30.



Our own raffle stall had so many prizes that it took nearly fifteen minutes to call out all the prize winners.

The day was fun packed with a dog agility display where the dog all whizzed round the obstacle course with ease showing how well they had been trained and the village "best dog" show gave us lots of pets trying to be as good as the "Professionals".

As for music, the "Choir on the Green" came up and sang a few pieces - with a wonderful solo from one of the Sops. Despite not being able to rehearse during Lockdown, they made a really good sound which brought more smiles to the faces in the crowd.



There was, as usual, plenty to do on the day for all ages including activities like splat the rat and hook a duck for our youngest guests and some more skilful challenges for the older attendees like golf putting and the coconut shy. There was also plenty of shopping distractions and opportunities to chance your luck to win prizes.

Particular thanks should go to Malcolm and Adam who surpassed themselves by squeezing 82 classic cars onto the green during the day, another new record.

We raised over £2500 on the day to support the work of the Community Association. Special thanks should go to all those who donate generously but also to our sponsors and to the raffle and the bar and Pimms stall who both did particularly well.

There are far too many people to thank individually but you know who you are. We could not put on a day like this without all your hard work and the Community Association thanks you sincerely for all your endeavours.

A couple of special mentions should go to the quiet industry of a few like John Mayne who manned the car park all day and raised money in the process, but also to the likes of Kieron Jaycock aged 14 and Emma Harris aged 11 years who ran the football competition and decorated stones stalls and raised £83 and £46 respectively in the process.

This is truly what community spirit is all about.

When it was all over and the crowds finally dispersed, the team began packing up, and taking down the stalls and the flags.

Later in the evening they came up for an evening together out on the green.



Some of the team relax



Denis and his food truck were still there and served us all as we drank a little wine and beer to celebrate a terrific day.

Our thanks to Shelagh Watts for putting it all together and making the day such a success. We are also told her appearance on local radio just before the fair opened was a virtuoso performance.

Roll on next year.

LAND FOR SALE **TRAVELLERS THREAT**

News came in April this year that a piece of land along the Chesham Road had come up for sale. This was the field directly by the flashing 30 mph sign and the village “gates” and bordered by the lane up to the Flamsted farm and properties there.



Price was set at £125,000, a figure considerably more than the field was worth as a grazing paddock. The owner has been trying to get planning permission for building and/or for a travellers site for some years - and failed - and wanted to capitalise.

Soon after, a couple of travellers were found in the fields by the Equestrian Centre - down at lane to Flamsted. They were reported to the police.

It seemed that they were from a Travellers group in Hemel and looking over the land with a view to buying and setting up a Travellers site - and that had influenced the high price..

The impact to the village - and especially to the equestrian centre as their field was directly next to the field for sale - would have been significant, to say the least!

Some villagers made several offers, but were rejected until a group got together and made a final bid which was - eventually - accepted. It was a great relief to all!

The buyers are keen to remain anonymous, but we must all thank them for their generosity.

LOCAL MP VISITS ASHLEY GREEN

Sarah Green was recently elected as the MP for Chesham and Amersham in a by-election after the death of Cheryl Gillam.



She has been very active since the election and came to Ashley Green - on the very border of her constituency to hold a “Workshop” in the Golden Eagle on Friday August 6th.

A number of people went up to meet her and discuss various issues and they were impressed that she was attentive to detail and the fact that she has an “on the road” surgery is a good sign that she intends to represent local issues well.

Let us hope so!

ASHLEY GREEN W.I.

Back to a bit of normal, hurrah! We held our first meeting of the year inside at last, which was such a relief as the weather has been a little unpredictable of late.

The village fair was an amazing day and we were delighted to help once again with the refreshments. We have some new younger, twenty-somethings, members which made a busy afternoon so much easier. Our secretary's boyfriend was also roped in to assist and looked rather fetching in his WI apron with 'Ashley Green W.I., Ask Me About Joining' on the front.

Buckinghamshire WI celebrated 100 years in 2020 but due to COVID events were cancelled. This year the events went ahead under the name 100+1. Chesham Prep kindly lent us a minibus and I drove a group of our members to Waddesdon Manor.



We had an afternoon of picnicking on the lawns at the front of the house, visiting the lovely stalls and taking a look at the WI pennants from the other Bucks groups.



We also entered the scarecrow competition. Our entry (see photo) covered both categories, 'celebrity' and 'recycled'. Recycled Ashley Greene! For anyone who doesn't know who Ashley Greene is, she starred in the Twilight movies.

We didn't win but we did get a commendation from Lady Howe, for our scarecrow's sheer stature.



Our next outing was the canal boat trip we had postponed, twice, due to COVID. A lovely four-hour trip on the canal in a beautiful, picture window boat where the committee served a full afternoon tea.



The boat crew particularly enjoyed the trip as I'm sure they don't get that well fed on most trips. We've already booked for next year.

Plans to restart our twice monthly pub lunches are well underway and we have some varied speakers lined up for the remainder of the year, so why not join the WI today!

FROM THE GOLDEN EAGLE



We would like to let everyone know that we have heard their concerns over the cameras and parking restrictions.

We presently are at battle with the parking company to take down the cameras until then we have covered them up so there will be no parking enforcement.

We ask that the local community are mindful of parking early and therefore ask to have no parking until after 10:30 am in the mornings so we can maintain our privacy and rest.

On a very important note we would like to inform the local community that the pub is seriously under threat of closure and ask that the local community come and support us in keeping the pub functioning as their community asset.

With the view to welcoming you back and the pub becoming a success we will be introducing band-nights, quiz nights and getting the afternoon tea club up and running again.

We aspire the golden eagle to be the hub of the Ashley green community, a place where people gather together to meet friends and family with a time of fun and laughter.

From Don & Emma - Our Landlords at the pub

SONYA HAS GONE

Many of you will have known Sonya who has been serving at the "Golden Eagle" both behind the bar as well as at table for over five years and working for the many landlords who have come and gone recently.

In particular she has been most helpful at the various village lunches, making people feel at home by being attentive and smiling and friendly all the time.

Sadly she has decided to leave and her last day was Friday August 6th.

To her surprise the pub filled up with villagers at the end of her shift, all there to wish her well.



Our landlords - Don and Emma - presented her with flowers, and a card signed by everyone. She had a bottle and other presents and was finally presented with an envelope filled with cash collected from all her friends. She was not expecting all that and was quite overcome for a moment.

Good Luck, Sonya, and we all hope to see you back at the Eagle from time to time.

ASHLEY GREEN ART GROUP



The weekly Monday Evening sessions of the Art Group at the Old School have been suspended since March last year. The good news is that we shall be resuming next month.

We have decided to meet on **Tuesday mornings (10.15 - 12.30)** instead of Monday evenings, commencing on 7th September.

We would very much welcome some new blood, so if anyone in the village is interested either please make contact. or simply just pop in and have a chat and see what we do.

Contact email geraldhunting1@gmail.com,
or phone (07570 812503) -

HIRING OUR HALLS

At last we are now able to make our halls available for lettings and events and activities are returning. Sadly we have lost a few regulars and in particular the Pilates sessions which were a daily event in the Green Room - one of the buildings in the Old School complex..

We now have the **Memorial Hall** - often referred to as the "Village Hall" - the **Old School** and the "**Green Room**" available for hire.

If you want to hire any of our halls, you can do so directly from our website (see below). There you can see a description of the halls along with a slide show where you can view all the rooms available to see which would suit you best.

You can also look at the booking diaries of the Memorial Hall and Old School buildings to see when the halls are available.

All you have to do then is to enter your details and submit a provisional booking - and the lettings officer will contact you to confirm. Simple!!!!

You can visit the website at:-

www.ashleygreen.org.uk

then simply click on **Halls for Hire** to see all the above

If you simply want to ask a question or check any information you can contact our lettings office at:-

lettings@ashleygreen.org.uk

HALLO AND WELCOME NEW VILLAGERS

We have seen quite a few newcomers to Ashley Green in the past months and all are most welcome. Some of you have already signed up for our Community Association News Bulletins and become members of the Association..

However some of you may not know they exist or even also that we have a Website packed with information and an active Community Association here in Ashley Green.

The Community Association stages events throughout the year for villagers and others, at the same time raising funds to maintain and continually improve the facilities under their control. Membership is only £5.00 person and this small fee really does help our funds while offering the chance to get you involved in village activities.

The News Bulletins are sent out **free of charge** to anyone in the village when any item of direct interest or impact to village residents needs to be broadcast. People can also offer any unwanted item - again **free of charge** - via our village **FreeBay** service. To get on the circulation list just contact us - davedharmer@aol.com - and leave your Email address.

Bulletins are sent out to 300 individuals under Blind Copy - a simple way to try to avoid scams.

The website contains information about all these things, as well as copies of past newsletters, some films from 1940, lots of pictures of events and all the contact details!

Find it at:- www.ashleygreen.org.uk

Hope to see you on board soon!

FOOTBALL IN THE HALL 2021

This year we were able to use the Memorial Hall to show Football on the big Screen.

We had the Championship final in May, then the UEFA Euro matches when England played in the Quarter and Semi finals - and then the Final - which we, sadly, lost on penalties to Italy.

Attendance varied from 30-50 people. The profits from the bar went to the Community Association from the Semi-final and to the Lords Taverners for the Final.



It was good to get the community together like this and make use of our hall and facilities.

THE CURTIS TRUST

The Curtis Educational Foundation was a small trust set up under the will of Thomas Curtis in the 1880's to financially assist young people under the age of 25 with educational, social or physical training. This can range from assistance with school trips, music lessons (or purchase of musical equipment), purchase of tools for apprenticeships, help with fees for further education and so on. Although the amounts of money available are not large, they can be deployed quite flexibly, and the Trustees were keen to see them put to good use. Applicants or their parents should be resident in Ashley Green Parish or have at any time attended the school in Ashley Green.

This trust was fading from memory until Barbara White suggested the remaining funds be used for the Playground Project. We managed to secure the remaining £1,759.60 funds from the Skipton Building Society before it was completely forgotten, which have been donated to the Playground Project.

We are delighted to inform the village that the Community Association have taken over the stewardship of the Curtis Trust to ensure its longevity. If you, or your family would like to explore the possibility of a grant, please contact the Chairman –

Rob Young - rob_youngs@btinternet.com

ADVERTS

Why not advertise your enterprise/activity here? Contact us with details. Email:- davedharmer@aol.com. Tel 01442 874931

REFLEXOLOGY Wendy Waterman



Wendy is a member of the AOR (Association of Reflexologists) She is fully insured and offers both mobile and treatment room service in the daytime or evenings Please call to arrange a convenient time for an appointment

Make time for yourself, invest in your health
For appointments please call Wendy Waterman
on 07786 411418 or email: wend.w@sky.com



SPOT ON" is now back to supplying its regular catering customers but can still supply orders to villagers in Ashley Green. There are over 1000 products available on the website now with a high proportion retail friendly as opposed to catering size packs.

See us at:- www.spotonwholesalefoods.co.uk



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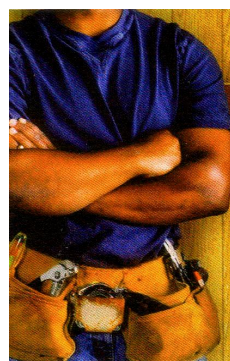
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